

Sinclair Broadcast Group's recent actions related to its planned airing of the blatantly anti-Kerry "documentary" entitled "Stolen Honor," and its subsequent backtracking, under public pressure, to instead air a one-hour so-called "news" program clearly illustrate the dangers that media over-consolidation pose to both localism and democracy.

Sinclair uses the public airwaves free of charge, and is obligated by law to serve the public interest. But when large companies like Sinclair control the airwaves, we get more of what's good for the corporate bottom line and less of what we citizens need to sustain our democracy. Instead of something produced at "News Central" far away, it's more important that we see real people from our own communities and more substantive news about issues that matter locally--not thinly disguised partisan electioneering just before the national November election.

Sinclair's egregious actions show why media ownership rules should be strengthened, not weakened. For example, they show why the license renewal process needs to involve more than just a returned postcard.

Thank you in advance for taking appropriate steps to reduce the power of "Big Media" to suffocate journalism and democracy itself, thereby helping to preserve our free and democratic way of life.